

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A program distribution system for distributing a program to a client comprising:

a program distributing device including

5 a program subdividing section configured to subdivide the program into a plurality of program blocks with each having a predetermined size, and

a program distributing section including

10 a program block storing portion configured to store the program blocks subdivided in the program subdividing section,

a client authenticating portion configured to authenticate the client to whom the program blocks will be distributed, and

15 a program block distributing portion configured to distribute the program blocks to the client;

and

a client terminal device utilized by the client for receiving the program blocks from the program distributing device including

20 a program block storing portion configured to store the program blocks distributed from the program distributing device,

a restoration schedule setting portion configured to set a scheduled date and time for restoration of the program from the program blocks, and

25 a restored program storing portion configured to store the program restored from the program blocks.

2. The program distribution system as recited in claim 1 wherein the program distributing section further includes a restoration program storing portion configured to store a restoration program for restoring the program from the program blocks, and

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the client terminal device further includes an information exchanging section being configured to exchange information with the program distributing device to establish the restoration program.

5 3. A method for distributing a program to a plurality of clients through a server such that the clients can open the program after a scheduled date and time for releasing the program, comprising:

 subdividing the program into a plurality of program blocks with each having a predetermined size;

10 storing the program blocks in the server connected to a plurality of client terminal devices;

 authenticating each of the clients through each of the client terminal devices;

 distributing the program blocks to each of the client terminal devices; and

 storing the program blocks in memory of each of the client terminal devices such
15 that the program can be restored from the program blocks after the scheduled date and time for releasing the program has been reached.

 4. The method for distributing the program as recited in claim 3, further comprising

20 automatically distributing a restoration program for restoring the program stored in a construction procedure description file of the server to each of the client terminal devices when each of the client terminal devices is powered on and put into an operating state after the scheduled date and time for releasing the program has been reached, and

 reconstructing and restoring the program from the program blocks in each of the
25 client terminal devices using the restoration program received from the server.

 5. The method for distributing the program as recited in claim 3, further comprising

 distributing at least one program block containing an updated portion of the
30 program to each of the client terminal devices to revise a corresponding portion of the program.

6. The method for distributing the program as recited in claim 3, wherein the distributing of the program blocks from the server to the plurality of client terminal devices is performed in a time-divided manner such that time differences exist among distributions of the program blocks from the server to the client terminal devices.

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7. A program distribution system comprising:

a first network including a first server and a first client terminal device connected to the first server; and

a second network including a plurality of second servers connected to the first network through a data circuit, each of the second servers being connected to a plurality of second client terminal devices,

the first network further including

a program creating section being configured to create a program, revise the program and check an operation of the program,

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a program subdividing section being configured to subdivide the program into a plurality of program blocks with each having a predetermined size,

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a program distributing section being configured to distribute the program blocks to the second servers of the second network, and

a client authenticating section being configured to authenticate a client to which the program blocks will be distributed,

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each of the second client terminal devices including

a program block storing section being configured to store the program blocks distributed from a corresponding one of the second servers,

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a restoration schedule setting section being configured to set date and time for restoration of the program from the program blocks,

an information exchanging section being configured to exchange information with the corresponding one of the second servers to establish a restoration program for restoring the program from the program blocks, and

5 a restored program storing section being configured to store the program restored from the program blocks.

8. A program distribution system comprising:

a first network including a first server and a first client terminal device connected

10 to the first server;

a second network including a second server connected to the first network and a plurality of third servers connected to the first network and the second server through a data circuit, each of the third servers having a plurality of third client terminal devices connected thereto,

15 the first network further including

a program creating section being configured to create a program, revise the program, and check an operation of the program,

20 a program subdividing section being configured to subdivide the program into a plurality of program blocks with each having a predetermined size, and

a program transmitting section being configured to transmit the program blocks to the second server,

and

25 the second server including

a program block storing section being configured to store the program blocks, and

a program distributing section being configured to distribute the program blocks to the third servers,

30 and

each of the third servers including

a client authenticating section being configured to authenticate a client to which the program blocks will be distributed,

5 a program block storing section being configured to store the program blocks, and

a restoration program storing section being configured to store the restoration program, and

each of the third client terminal devices including

10 a program block storing section being configured to store the program blocks distributed from a corresponding one of the third servers,

a restoration schedule setting section being configured to set date and time for restoration of the program,

15 an information exchanging section being configured to exchange information with the corresponding one of the third servers to establish a restoration program for restoring the program from the program blocks, and

20 a restored program storing section being configured to store the program restored from the program blocks.

9. A program distribution apparatus comprising:

a program distribution server configured to distribute a program to at least one client terminal device including

25 a program subdividing section being configured to subdivide the program into a plurality of program blocks with each having a predetermined size,

a restoration program creating section being configured to create a restoration program for restoring the program from the program blocks, and

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a program distributing section being configured to distribute the program blocks and the restoration program to the at least one client terminal device.

5 10. The program distribution apparatus as recited in claim 9, wherein the program subdivision processing section is further configured to compress data of the program.

10 11. The program distribution apparatus as recited in claim 9, wherein the program distributing section is further configured to distribute the program blocks in a time-divided manner such that separate distributions of a prescribed number of the program blocks are executed with a prescribed time delay between the separate distributions.

15 12. The program distribution apparatus as recited in claim 9, wherein the restoration program includes information regarding scheduled restoration date when the program is restored from the program blocks.

20 13. A method for distributing a program through a program distribution server to at least one client terminal device, comprising:
 subdividing the program into a plurality of program blocks with each having a predetermined size;
 creating a restoration program for restoring the program from the program blocks;
 and
25 distributing the program blocks and the restoration program to the at least one client terminal device.

30 14. The method of distributing the program as recited in claim 13, wherein the subdividing the program includes compressing data of the program.

15. The method of distributing the program as recited in claim 13, wherein distributing the program blocks in a time-divided manner such that separate distributions of a prescribed number of the program blocks are executed with a prescribed time delay between the separate distributions.

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16. The method of distributing the program as recited in claim 13, wherein creating the restoration program to include information regarding scheduled restoration date when the program is restored from the program blocks.

10 17. A program distribution system for distributing a program to a client comprising:

program distributing means for

subdividing the program into a plurality of program blocks with each having a predetermined size,

15 storing the program blocks subdivided in the program subdividing section,

authenticating the client to whom the program blocks will be distributed, and

distributing the program blocks to the client;

20 and

program receiving means for

receiving and storing the program blocks from the program distributing means,

25 setting a scheduled date and time for restoration of the program from the program blocks, and

storing the program restored from the program blocks.

18. A program distribution apparatus for distributing a program to at least one client terminal device comprising:

30 program subdividing means for subdividing the program into a plurality of program blocks with each having a predetermined size,

restoration program creating means for creating a restoration program to restore the program from the program blocks, and

program distributing means for distributing the program blocks and the restoration program to the at least one client terminal device.

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